



Tan Relays Saturday 17 September 2011

Excellent running conditions greeted competitors in this year's Tan Relay event. There was a windy gust or two on the top part of the course around the Botanic Gardens and past the shrine.

This year's Division 1 race was a closely run race, particularly from first to fifth and the overall standard of performance lifted this year as well. In order to win the Winter season Premiership, Box Hill needed to win the event and have Geelong in fourth position. If Box Hill won and Geelong finished third, then Geelong would win on a countback. By winning the Tan Relay race, Geelong would clearly take out the Winter Championship.

The men's and women's races were separated by a margin of five minutes. It was surprising to see a cloud of dust rise when the men's races started, and this probably reflected the influence of the warmish temperature.

Tyson Popplestone (Eureka) led the Division 1 first lap and ran the smart time of 11 minutes 12 seconds. Scott Vance (Frankston) was the next athlete to changeover, closely followed by Daniel Clark, in third position. Daniel was well placed, ahead of all of the rival clubs which could have beaten us. Eureka faded after the first leg and look likely to be relegated to Division 2 along with Keilor St Bernards. APS was hard on our heels in fourth place with Geelong and Glenhuntly not much further behind (see below for the times and places held). Know and Essendon were surprisingly not prominent at this stage. In the second lap, Anthony Aloisio ran past Steve Kelly to record a fast lap (11:18) whilst Steve overtook Eureka and Frankston. Glenhuntly improved to be third, with a gap between Box Hill and Glenhu1414ntly and Knox moved into fourth. Geelong slipped to sixth position which appeared to open the door for us to win if they didn't improve their position,. However, Craig Mottram commenced warming up for the fourth leg and that was always going to have an influence on the race. When Steve handed over to Chris Hamer, we were a close second. Chris ran a solid lap, holding second place, having marginally reduced the deficit, again within close striking distance. Simon Field (APS) managed to hold on to the lead.

Michael Dowel was our fourth runner, having been promoted from the Under 20 team. APS led off, followed by Box Hill and Geelong 24 seconds behind us. Knox and Glenhuntly were also in medal contention, with Frankston slipping back. Craig Mottram took over and smashed all the other runners in this lap. He recorded the fastest time for the day, 27 seconds quicker than anyone else managed on the day. The propelled Geelong to the lead, a position they held for the rest of the race. APS managed to stay just ahead of box Hill to maintain second, whilst Glenhuntly and the fast finishing Knox (Ben Toomey) were only just behind our team. Daniel Balassone took over to run the fifth leg. Geelong came back to the field in this lap, and Sam Crowther (Knox) ran a very smart lap (11:20) to move Knox into second place at the end of the fifth lap. APS still held third place and Box Hill was 12 seconds in arrears of APS, with Steve Dinneen still to run. Steve set off purposefully and made up significant ground on APS, passing Justin Rinaldi, to take over third place, and eroding the lead that Knox had in second place. Brenton Rowe (Geel.) extended Geelong's lead over the rest of the field, running the second fastest sixth leg of the day. Mitchel Brown running the last leg for Essendon brought his tem into sixth place but could not catch fifth-placed Glenhuntly. Therefore Box Hill finished with the bronze medal, and in second place in the Winter Championship. With a number of

top Under 20 runners moving into senior ranks, and the impending return of Andrew White and others who have recovered from injury, we look set for an excellent 2012 season.

In Division 2, Melbourne University maintained its dominance of the division smashing the other teams. Of note were the excellent leg run by Gondwosen Geleta (South Melbourne). South Melbourne was the runner-up with Collingwood 2 third. Box Hill placed eighth. Nick Baggott (12:45), David Jimenez (13:02) and Steve Griffin (13:05) were the leading runners in our team.

Thanks to the members and supporters who assisted with team management duties.

2011 Men's Team Performances: The Tan Relays

Division 1 Performance Running Sheet (Running watch)

| Leg 1 | | Leg 2 | | Leg 3 | | Leg 4 | | Leg 5 | | Leg 6 | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Eureka | 11:12 | APS | 22:50 | APS | 34:26 | Geel | 45:35 | Geel | 57:31 | Geel | 68:42 |
| Frank | 11:28 | BH | 22:55 | BH | 34:30 | APS | 46:25 | Knox | 58:01 | Knox | 70:01 |
| BH | 11:30 | GH | 23:15 | Geel | 34:54 | BH | 46:33 | APS | 58:36 | BH | 70:25 |
| APS | 11:31 | Knox | 23:20 | Knox | 35:04 | GH | 46:35 | BH | 58:48 | APS | 70:38 |
| Geel | 11:36 | Frank | 23:23 | GH | 35:07 | Knox | 47:43 | GH | 59:11 | GH | 70:54 |
| GH | 11:46 | Geel | 23:28 | Frank | 35:45 | Ess | 48:16 | Fra | 60:54 | Ess | 72:25 |
| Coll | 11:47 | Ess | 23:50 | Coll | 36:14 | Frank | 48:30 | Coll | 61:16 | Coll | 72:45 |
| KStB | 11:51 | Coll | 24:06 | Wav | 36:36 | Coll | 48:54 | Ess | 61:18 | Frank | 72:51 |

Division 1 Placings

Men's Division 1 Overall Results

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 Geelong | 1:08:42 |
| 2 Knox | 1:10:01 |
| 3 Box Hill | 1:10:25 |
| 4 APS | 1:10:38 |
| 5 Glenhuntly | 1:10:54 |
| 6 Essendon | 1:12:25 |

Box Hill Division 1 Individual Performances

| Leg | Runner | Lap time | Race Position | Leader's time | BH time |
|-----|------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| 1 | Daniel Clark | 11:30 | 3 | 11:12 | 11:30 |
| 2 | Steve Kelly | 11:25 | 2 | 22:50 | 22:55 |
| 3 | Chris Hamer | 11:35 | 2 | 34:26 | 34:30 |
| 4 | Michael Dowel | 12:13 | 3 | 45:35 | 46:43 |
| 5 | Daniel Balassone | 12:05 | 4 | 57:31 | 58:48 |
| 6 | Steve Dinneen | 11:37 | 3 | 68:42 | 70:25 |

Leading Times (Unofficial running watch)

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| Craig Mottram | Geelong | 10.41 | |
| Mitchel Brown | Essendon | 11:07 | |
| Ben Ashkettle | Doncaster | 11:07 | Division 3 |
| Brenton Rowe | Geelong | 11:12 | |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Tyson Popplestone | Eureka | 11:13 | |
| Tom Fawthorpe | Ringwood | 11:14 | Division 4 |
| Anthony Aloisio | APS | 11:18 | |
| Sam Crowther | Knox | 11:20 | |
| Adrian McGregor | Melb. Uni | 11:20 | Division 2 |
| Steve Kelly | Box Hill | 11:25 | |
| Jordan Williamsz | Knox | 11:25 | |
| Wondosen Geleta | Sth Melb. | 11:26 | Division 2 |
| Scott Vance | Frankston | 11:28 | |
| Adam Byles | Glenhuntly | 11:29 | |
| Rowan Walker | Geelong | 11:29 | |
| Luke Hennesy | Glenhuntly | 11:30 | |
| Daniel Clark | Box Hill | 11.30 | |
| Chris Hamer | Box Hill | 11.35 | |

Men's Division 2 Overall Results

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Melbourne University | 1:11:59 |
| 2 South Melbourne | 1:14:28 |
| 3 Collingwood | 1:16:54 |
| 4 Glenhuntly | 1:18:21 |
| 5 Bendigo | 1:18:40 |
| 6 Ringwood | 1:18:41 |
| 7 Western Athletics | 1:19:20 |
| 8 Box Hill | 1:21:50 |

Division 2 Box Hill Times

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Nick Baggott | 12:45 |
| Steve Griffin | 13:05 |
| Keiran Shah | 15:03 |
| Andrew Hester | 13:27 |
| David Ayers | 14:27 |
| David Jimenez | 13:02 |